

Dear Chairman Martin and Commissioners of the FCC,

I am writing as the Public Service Director of
KQRP-LP in Salida, California at 106.1 FM.

KQRP is a listener supported low power community
radio station organized by Fellowship of the Earth (FOTE),
a small community group based out of Salida, California.
KQRP is currently under threat of losing our local coverage
area due to a translator application in Modesto, CA at 105.9 FM.

Serving the community of Salida, KQRP provides independent news
and music with a focus on community issues.

Our goal is to enhance our community through our local broadcasts
and serve the community in which this radio station was founded.

Salida is a fast growing community in Stanislaus County.

We have over 12,000 people in Salida and about 40,000 in our
immediate listening radius. It is the largest unincorporated
community in the county and continues to grow.

With this growth, the need for communication is vital.

The radio station serves as a conduit for a vast array
of unique programming. It is our mission to bring
perspectives and local issues to our community –
items sorely lacking in much of the programming
on other stations that cover the area.

KQRP gives the community an opportunity to utilize
radio media to reach their neighbor's, families, and friends.

For example: one of our programs is a community feature
called "Salida Student Spotlight". It recognizes students
in the Salida School District who show excellence in academics
, community service and other special activities.

We also promote and broadcast live at the Salida
"Town and Country" festival including the live music
provided at the festival by local area bands!

KQRP has also been the only media outlet in this area
to ever broadcast a local town meeting.

KQRP provides an invaluable resource for educational,
cultural and progressive programs.

Our mission is to offer programming which will enrich, enlighten, and educate. We are proud to offer Salida, Ripon and parts of Modesto this unique broadcasting opportunity.

KQRP has been on air and serving our community for over three years, but now a translator (K290BF) from the Horizon Christian Fellowship is slated for 105.9 FM in Modesto, CA. With about 20 stations broadcasting nationally, and a few internationally, Horizon Christian Broadcasting does not connect with local community issues, but instead re-broadcasts their "Chapter and Verse" radio to repeater stations around the country. This kind of "repeat media" does not align with the FCC's commitment to localism in media.

The translator application window of 2003 unfairly gave translators the opportunity for licenses while LPFM stations such as KQRP, waited with stalled applications. Instead of processing LPFM applications, out of town repeat-caster's were given access to better frequencies and more powerful allocations.

Translators such as K290BF should have a "secondary" status with regard to locally-based low power stations. KQRP is a local organization that wants to broadcast from 106.1 FM with real, local content. Our signal should not be challenged by a repeater station. The licensing system as it stands puts remote, out of state organizations looking to rebroadcast on thousands of channels nationwide on the same level as local entities who want just one community radio station.

As the local Radio Chief Engineer for the past 25 years, a senior member of the Salida Town council and an Advanced Class amateur radio operator, I am very concerned about this trend against localism and public service!

Community stations such as KQRP must be protected from being hemmed in by a flood of translators and 'move-ins' that fail to provide much needed local content and services. I wanted to thank you all for attending the public Media Ownership hearings.

I attended and spoke at the San Francisco City hall meeting attended by commissioner Jonathan Adelstein.

I hope that this will continue, and that the FCC will fulfill the stated mission of promoting localism and protecting the public interest.

LPFMs should not be "secondary" in the first place, but these new protections are the least the FCC can do.

Thank you for your time.

Very sincerely,

Brad Johnson C.E.
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